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MANENT RATES, APPLY AS ADVERTISED.

A Time to Build.

According to the statements of the preacher in Ecclesiastes there is "a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;" in fact, "to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

Charles V., although a Spaniard himself, once said: "The Spaniards seem to be wise, yet they are madmen; the French seem to be madmen, yet they are wise." Brokers upon the door of the stock exchange seem to be madmen, yet they are wise in their generation. No matter how many times the market goes against them, they do not despair. They are quick to see a change, and brave enough to take advantage of it. They believe in "sand," "grit," enterprise and pluck.

To our eyes, the horizon never seemed clearer and more prophetic of good to the builder of houses than to-day. Cheap land, cheap materials, cheap labor, the modern improvements, a people anxious to retrieve the errors of the past, and determined to take advantage of the tide of prosperity, low taxes, and no debt, a large demand for houses to rent; what more is desired? The time to build is at hand.

No money will be made by those who let the opportunity slip. Some see it, and will take advantage of it in the spring. Many more should lay their plans for prompt movement when the weather is sufficiently mild for work. Sister townships are having their boom; why not we? There can be no other reason than that we hesitate when we should act. But there is not only a time, there is also a way to build. To put up square houses without ornament or improvement of any sort, is folly. It is better to pay an architect one or two hundred dollars for a plan, than to build for less, and then be able to rent only at a loss, with no chance to sell. Houses ranging in value from \$2000 to \$4000 each, of modern design, provided with water and gas, and situated near the depots, may not sell, but will rent readily, at a figure to bring a good return for the money invested. Valuable information as to designs and prices may be obtained from Shoppell's Modern Houses, a new quarterly published in New York.

But there is not only a time or way to build, there is a time and way to sell. Desirable property, in a good location, laid out into small lots, and offered at a reasonable price will sell. A reasonable rate is not under \$1000, nor over \$4000 an acre; and every lot sold will increase the value of the remainder.

It is a time to build. They who embrace the opportunity may seem to be madmen, but will be wise; while those who seem wise, may presently see that they were madmen.

Gov. Abbott's Grip.

Gov. Leon Abbott has appeared before Messrs. MacDonald and Clarke, of the Brooklyn bridge grip commission, and advocated the claims of a grip and brake combined which he has invented. The Governor was accompanied by a cotiee of admiring Jerseymen, who seemed to think that his invention was the greatest invention of the age. The principle of the Governor's air brake is applied in a measure to the device, and one movement works both brake and grip. It is exceedingly powerful and presents many admirable features. It will be given further consideration. The Camden Courier thinks: "What the Governor should exercise his inventive genius over about this time is an iron grip that will regulate the New Jersey legislature." The Paterson Press says: "If any man knows how to block wheels, Leon Abbott ought to. We wish the Governor success in his new enterprise. As a public man he can never be anything more than a very able politician. As an inventor he may yet rank with the great."

The Abolition of Slavery in New Jersey.

It may not be generally known that slavery existed in this State until a comparatively recent date. At Mr. Cleveland's on Berkeley Hill, is still living one of these old slaves, known as "Old Harry," whose liberation followed upon the passage of the act abolishing slavery. Desiring to ascertain his probable age, and knowing that he was one of those affected by the act, we have investigated the matter, and find the following statement in the Historical Collections of New Jersey, published in 1844, which may be of interest to some of our readers. "On the 24th of February, 1820, the act was passed which gave freedom to every child born of slave parents subsequent to the 4th of July, 1804, the males on arriving at 25 years, and the females at 21 years of age; and under the operation of this act, slavery had almost disappeared [1844] from the State of New Jersey. Previous to its passage, the number of slaves had materially diminished. There were in the State in 1790 11,428.

1800 12,422.
1810 10,851.
1829 7,557.
1830 2,254.
1840 674.

The Legislature.

[From our Special Correspondent at Trenton.]

To The Citizen:

The Senate and House of Assembly held sessions on Monday evening last, but the business was so slight, that while the Senate was in session only an hour, a recess of fifteen minutes was taken to enable the Senators to hunt up something to do. The recess plan was found to work so well that, on Tuesday morning, a recess of half an hour was taken, during which several bills were engrossed, and, after the recess, four bills passed the Senate, Nos. 6, 2, 10, and 7. The Senate held a very short session Tuesday afternoon, during which Senator Fish's bill to extend the jurisdiction of the Newark District Court to the entire county passed its second reading, and the Senate adjourned to Monday evening next. But thirty bills have been introduced in the Senate, of which seventeen were introduced this week.

The following item from the Newark Daily Advertiser tells the story in a decidedly original and vigorous manner:

Trenton, Jan. 19.—The Senate did some work to-day and went home until Monday night, and the Assembly did nothing and stayed over until to-morrow morning. This year's legislative grist will be small, unless an unexpected batch of grain is laid down at the mill before long. Less than one hundred bills have been introduced, and the prospects that the crop is well harvested are very encouraging. It looks as though, for virtues of omission, the State will have occasion to get right up and call this Legislature blessed, when it adjourns.

Senate Bill, No. 19, provides for two Commissioners of Jurors, to be appointed by the Judge of the Circuit Court, to select persons suitable for jury duty at each term of the Court.

Senate Bill No. 28 provides for local option by counties. As a majority of the voters of the whole county will determine the question, the bill will not affect Essex County, in which public sentiment does not favor so radical a measure.

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Mr. Potter, of East Orange, has introduced a bill to permit the division of townships and boroughs into wards.

House Bill No. 56 makes Justices of the Peace ineligible to hold any other office.

No. 63 provides that overseers of roads in townships may be elected with other township officers.

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On Monday evening, Mr. Parker, of Newark, offered a resolution requesting Congress not to pass a bill to permit the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to build a bridge over the Arthur Kill to Staten Island. On the motion of Mr. Corbin, and with but little debate, the matter was referred to the Committee on Riparian Rights, of which Mr. Underhill is a member.

A similar resolution passed the last Legislature and was sent to Congress.

The Legislative Special Committee on the State Reform School at Jamesburg will recommend many radical changes, including shorter hours of labor for boys and additional time for study. The committee are unanimous in the belief that the boys are overworked according to the present rules, and will insist on diminishing the time for labor and increasing the hours for study.

The Camden Freeholders have decided to discontinue dinners to members and reporters at public expense.

The Passaic County Grand Jury has made a presentment against the Board of Freeholders of Passaic county for exceeding the appropriation in voting to pay \$15,000 on account of the lease of Colt's Hill for county buildings. The presentment states that the grand inquest believes that the Freeholders were honest in the matter, but were led into the transaction by other parties, principally the Clerk of the Board and the County Council.

At a meeting of the Montclair Building and Loan Association on Monday evening the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Ramsford E. Van Giesen, solicitor; C. Alexander Cook, secretary; Edwin B. Goodell, treasurer.

Notice of Settlement.

Notice is hereby given that the Agents of the Subscriber, Assignee of Cyrus Pierson, will be audited and stated by the Surrogate, and reported for settlement to the Orphans' Court of the County of Essex, on Monday, the fifteenth day of March next. Dated Jan. 6, 1886.

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— — —

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